



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1953.

The Department of External Affairs announced today that Major-General George P. Vanier, D.S.O., M.C., Canadian Ambassador to France (since 1944) will relinquish his appointment at the end of this year and retire from the government service after a distinguished career of 38 years in the Army and the diplomatic service.

General Vanier was born in Montreal in 1888. He graduated from Laval University in 1911 and practised law for two years in Montreal before he joined the Canadian Army in 1914. During his active service in France with the Royal 22nd Regiment, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order and the Military Cross. He was severely wounded in action. Between 1919 and 1939 he served successively as Aide-de-Camp to the Governor-General, as Canadian Representative to the Permanent Advisory Commission for Military, Naval and Air Questions, as Technical Adviser to the Office of the Canadian Advisory Officer at Geneva, and as Secretary at the Office of the High Commissioner for Canada in London. In January, 1939, General Vanier was appointed Canadian Minister to France.

Upon his return to Canada in October, 1940, General Vanier was appointed member of the Canada - United States Permanent Joint Board on Defence, and also served as Joint Chairman, Civilian Recruiting Committee, Montreal. He was then appointed as District Officer Commanding, Military District No. 5 in Quebec.

In January, 1943, General Vanier was appointed Canadian Minister to the Allied Governments in London and, later that year, was made Canadian Representative to the French Committee on National Liberation. He was transferred from London to Algiers in that same capacity in January, 1944 and remained there until his appointment as Canadian Ambassador to France in November, 1944.

General Vanier is married to the former Pauline Archer of Montreal. They have 5 children.

General Vanier, during his long career of public service as a soldier and diplomat, has rendered outstanding service to his country.

An announcement will be made very shortly concerning the appointment of General Vanier's successor as Canadian Ambassador to France.
